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ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

ANTONIN KLECKA ADDRESSES SECOND PLENARY MEETING -- Prague, Zemedelske Noviny,
25 Jul 53

Dr Antonin Klecka, president of the CSAZV (Ceskoslovenska Akademie Zemedelskych Ved, Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences), presented a report at the second plenary meeting of the academy held in Prague on 15 July 1953, stressing the relation between science and its practical application to the problems facing agriculture. In outlining the program of the academy, Doctor Klecka said the following, inter alia.

Criticism and self-criticism will help scientific workers to render more able assistance to production. The teachings of Lysenko, as applied to practice in scientific work, must be stressed. It was Lysenko who said, "For the worker in the Stalin era, criticism and self-criticism are of the utmost importance."

In planning for this meeting it was found that a considerable number of leaders in the practical work of the academy had never met the research workers in their own sector. For this reason, meetings, discussions, and visits between workers on various levels are of vital importance. Such discussions will disclose erroneous planning, furnish the theoreticians with better knowledge of the actual problems involved, and provide an intelligent approach to everyday problems.

Preliminary talks on this and related subjects have disclosed the following:

1. All research workers should visit the practical workers in their respective departments or fields.
2. Leading practical workers should be invited to visit the research institutes and should be asked to discuss their experiences and exchange ideas.
3. Leading practical workers hailed with enthusiasms the proposed schedule of winter lectures and discussion evenings to be held at the academy itself, where the practical workers will discuss their experiences and the university students will be invited to listen in.
4. Outstanding practical experiences should be printed in the form of handbooks for use by the workers. Academic workers should assist in preparing such material in order to compensate for the lack of experience of innovators in preparing written material. This lack of experience is the main reason that new discoveries in the field have not been presented to others.
5. Cooperation must be on a mutual basis. When new discoveries which are made in the field are presented to the academicians, they will show that full use has not been made of the latent talent for research which is present everywhere.
6. Such cooperation will also expand the field of vision of the practical workers. Workers in the field often do not know that their particular problem has been solved by someone else. It is within the sphere of the academy to make all knowledge available to the persons in the field who may be in need of it, regardless of how trivial it may be.

The academy will cooperate fully with the ministries, the Main Administration of Research and Propaganda, and all academies and universities. When the CSAZV was organized, it was said that the organization would function much better if it cooperated closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, the CSAV

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(Ceskoslovenska Akademie Ved, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences), the SAV (Slovenska Akademie Ved, Slovak Academy of Sciences), and other similar institutes. Since not too much cooperation has been developed in the past six months, the matter should be considered with a critical eye.

Actually some progress has been made in cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of State Farms, the Central Committee of Agricultural Forestry Amelioration, the Ministry of Forests, and the Woodworking Industry, as far as technical development is concerned. Since all three academic institutions (CSAV, SAV, and CSAZV) are less than a year old, it seems premature to criticize the effects of their cooperative efforts.

The first and basic principle in the development of cooperation among the three academies will be the removal of the bourgeois concept of a difference between science as such and the practical application of such science. The delineation which presupposes the first to be of higher rank and value, with somewhat degraded status when used in a practical fashion, is erroneous. In the new concept, science is merely a tool for the improvement and enrichment of the life of the people, for the easement of human labors, and for more extensive exploitation of nature.

Other departments of science, such as biology, might gain valuable information from such cooperation while assisting the CSAZV with its problems. Many workers of the CSAV have already grasped the importance of this, especially in the fields of biology, microbiology, geobotany, and zoology. Such cooperation is in a state of preparation in the fields of bioclimatology and Pavlov animal physiology. Many unsolved problems remain in the field of microbiology as applied to the improvement of soils through both natural and prepared manures and fertilizers. At present the grass-field rotation system is being introduced. [This system has been used successfully in Czechoslovak agriculture for many years, according to Macaryk's Czech Encyclopedia, Vol III, p 30, "Ceskoslovensky Kompas," Prague.] All research in this field is not only desirable but actually of increasing importance.

Obstacles in the path of research must be removed. The first of these is the failure to apply Lenin's teachings to everyday problems. The second is the insufficient utilization of Soviet experience, which partly results from a lack of proper evaluation of such experiences. Many Czechoslovak researchers begin from scratch instead of building upon the hard-won results of Soviet science. The third obstacle combines the first two and consists mainly of a lack of systematic liaison between researchers and the leading practical workers. This results in ignorance of actual work conditions on the part of the theoreticians, and leads to lack of help by the researchers, to the practical workers. The academy cannot offer practical aid until it has tapped the rich source of experience existing in the JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives), the State Farms, and other sectors.

The chief cause of delays in the academy's program is the lack of suitable work places in which experiments can be conducted. This requirement has been met only in the animal husbandry sector. All others, including the crop production department, feed and forage department, and the mechanization department, have no experimental place of their own.

There are a few individuals who feel that agricultural research and science consist of theoretical solutions, but that the application and testing of such solutions -- that is, practical research -- should be done by someone else, and that their task is to inspect and coordinate such work.

Past experience has shown that regardless of how good this premise may appear in theory, true results are obtained only by actual observances of the problem in the field or on the production line.


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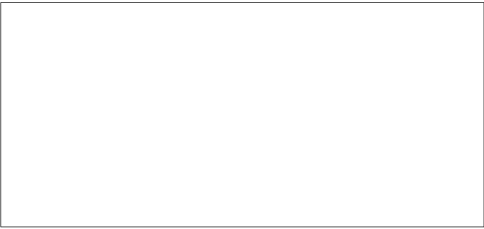
In agricultural research, the first laboratory must be the academy's own rigidly controlled experimental fields. If the experiments are conducted on a farm-wide basis, the entire project and not merely an isolated segment of it, must be exemplary.

The first 6 months of the new academy's work were chiefly organizational. The work confronting is of considerable magnitude; but since the CSAZV is being patterned after the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the CSAZV may and should turn to its illustrious predecessor for aid and assistance.

ACADEMY TO DEMONSTRATE AGRICULTURAL METHODS -- Prague, Rude Pravo, 28 Oct 53

The Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the KHV (Krajsky Narodni Vybor, Kraj National Committee) in Ctir Bedejovice and in Plzen, will give demonstrations on the care of meadows and pastures on 29 and 30 October 1953. The instructive demonstrations part of the academy's program of constructive aid to local organizations for the improvement of agriculture, will be opened on 29 October at 0900 hours in Volary by A. Klecka, president of the academy. Demonstrations on the care of meadows and pastures will then be given. New mechanization methods for the preparation, plowing, leveling, etc. of meadows and pastures will be shown on 30 October at the state farm near Kardasova Recice.

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